Numbers that count – Tshiamiso Trust reports 64% increase in claim lodgements as mandate enters critical phase

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FY2026 results show a 64% increase in completed lodgements, expanded access across six countries, and an urgent need for sustained stakeholder collaboration.

The Tshiamiso Trust has entered a critical phase of its mandate, reporting a sharp increase in claims activity as it moves into the latter half of its lifespan. Under the theme, *Numbers That Count*, the Trust's FY2026 results, presented today at its annual general meeting, reflected a year of scale, acceleration, and growing operational complexity, with completed claim lodgements increasing by 64% compared to the previous financial year.

With just over three years remaining for claim lodgement, the Trust is intensifying efforts to reach eligible current and former mineworkers and their dependents through expanded outreach, integrated service delivery, and stronger stakeholder partnerships across southern Africa.

During the reporting year, claim lodgements increased from 8 131 in FY2025 to 13 337 in FY2026, representing year-on-year growth of 64%. During the same period, the Trust conducted 9 486 benefit medical examinations (BMEs) and paid R534 million in compensation to 4 884 eligible claimants. Cumulatively, the Trust has paid R2.53 billion to 26 300 eligible claimants from 156 924 completed lodgements, with a lodgment to payment conversion of 17%, reflecting extensive medical certification and Trust certification processes before compensation can be paid.

Claims services were delivered through 42 lodgement centres across South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The integration of claim lodgement and follow-up support at BME service providers has enabled claimants to access more services at one location and reduced travel requirements. Outreach during the year focused particularly on Lesotho and the Eastern Cape, where significant claimant populations reside.

In her report, Dr May Hermanus, Chairperson of the Tshiamiso Trust, commented: "The Trust has entered a high-throughput phase in which our ability to deliver at scale, while maintaining fairness, consistency, and accountability, is critical. Each claim represents an individual or family seeking recognition and redress, and the integrity of the process is as important as the outcome."

Amendments to the Trust Deed approved during the reporting period have helped improve claims processing and medical certification. The changes address the treatment of previous TB records, updated lung-function reference values, and the assessment of certain silicosis claims where spirometry results are unavailable. Collectively, the amendments have enabled the Trust to resume the assessment of a substantial number of previously deferred claims.

The increase in activity has also intensified operational challenges, including contacting claimants in remote and cross-border communities, verifying work histories, and obtaining complete supporting and historical medical records, particularly in claims involving deceased mineworkers. These constraints reinforce the ongoing need for improved data access, operational innovation, and stronger stakeholder cooperation.

During the remaining claim-lodgment period, the Trust will focus on accelerating outreach, streamlining processing, and supporting eligible claimants throughout the claims process. This will include resolving employment history records affecting processing of claims in Zimbabwe and extending Trust services to Malawi for the first time.

Presenting on the Trust's priorities, Chief Executive Officer Dr Munyadziwa Kwinda said: "As the Trust enters a critical phase of its mandate, our focus is clear: reach more eligible claimants, resolve practical barriers, and ensure that every eligible claimant is compensated in accordance with the Trust Deed. Achieving this requires strong partnerships across governments, communities, and stakeholders throughout southern Africa."

Trustees also remain focused on sound governance and long-term sustainability of the Trust's operational model. Engagements with the settling parties are under way to ensure that the Trust has the resources required to maintain effective operations through its remaining lifespan.

About the Tshiamiso Trust

The Tshiamiso Trust was established to implement the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater, and Gold Fields. The Trust is responsible for compensating all eligible current and former mineworkers across southern Africa who have permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependents where the mineworker has passed away.

For further information, please contact:
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Useful links:

- To see if the mineworker qualifies to lodge a claim: https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/status-check/
- To view the claims process: https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/how-to-claim/
- To view the compensation classes: https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/compensation-classes/
- To view daily progress of claims and payments: https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/progress-report/